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LETTER

TO

Isabel Grant of Monymusk Perth 1752

Dr. FRIEND;

SHEWING

The Danger and Uncertainty of
Inoculating the

S M A L L P O X.

By *W. WAGSTAFFE*, M. D. Fellow
of the College of Physicians and of the
Royal Society, and one of the Physi-
cians of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

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A
L E T T E R
T O
Dr. *F R E I N D.*

S I R,



HO' the *Fashion* of Inoculating the Small Pox has so far prevail'd, as to be admitted into the greatest Families, yet I entirely concur with You in Opinion, that, till we have fuller Evidence of the Success of it, both with regard to

the Security of the Operation, and the Certainty of preventing the like Distemper from any other Cause, Physicians at least, who of all Men ought to be guided in their Judgments chiefly by Experience, shou'd not be over hasty in encouraging a Practice, which does not seem as yet sufficiently supported either by Reason, or by Fact. Nor is it only necessary to enquire into the Manner of the several repeated Tryals on Persons of different Ages, Sexes, and Constitutions, in different Seasons of the Year, and in different Climates, but to examine the Nature of Infusing such a Fluid into the Blood, as is the Matter contain'd in the Pustules of the Small Pox, and what Consequences it may produce. Other People may be satisfied with
being

being told, that the Operation is successful ; but Physicians, I shou'd think, cannot with Prudence give into any thing which is the *peculiar Subject* of their Profession, merely because it has been cry'd up by those who are no Physicians, and have not the least Knowledge of Distempers.

The Countrey from whence we deriv'd this Experiment, will have but very little Influence on our Faith, if we consider either the Nature of the Climate, or the Capacity of the Inhabitants ; and Posterity perhaps will scarcely be brought to believe, that an Experiment practiced only by a few *Ignorant Women*, amongst an illiterate and unthinking People, shou'd on a sudden, and upon a slender Experience,

perience, so far obtain in one of the Politest Nations in the World, as to be receiv'd into the *Royal Palace*.

Those from whom we borrowed it, cannot give any tolerable relation of the Fact ; those who underwent it, had the Advantage of a warm Climate, living on a spare Diet, and in the lowest manner, almost without the common Necessaries of Life. Those again who brought it to us, are either little capable of Judging of the Nature of the Case ; or if they are, they have given us several false Descriptions of it ; and those at length on whom this Operation is now perform'd, live in a more luxurious manner than the Slaves in *Greece* and *Asia*, and their Blood
abounds

abounds with Particles more susceptible of Inflammation.

Our Blood, if we speak of it as *National*, is the Product of the richest Diet; nor have even the meanest of our People the greatest Reputation for their Abstinence; and if inoculating may have succeeded in *Georgia* and *Circassia*, where it took its *Birth*, 'tis no Argument it can be transplanted to us with Success, or Naturalized to our Advantage.

The Manner by which Contagion is propagated, is the same in this, as in *Pestilential* Diseases, only in a less Degree, and, as an elegant * Author on that Subject observes, they are the *finest*, the most
volatile,

* Fracastorius lib. 1. de Contagione cap. 7. & 9.

volatile, and indeed *insensible* Particles of the Animal Juices, that are the most Penetrating, and consequently the most Contagious. And as in the Small Pox these active Particles are convey'd from the diseas'd, and receiv'd into the Mouth and Nostrils, and perhaps thro' the Pores of a Body that is Sound, they immediately Taint the Blood and Juices, and Infect the Person, who receives them. But the Symptoms are more or less, and the Distemper appears in a greater or a less Degree, according to the State of the Blood at the time of the Infection. If the Blood is in such a Condition as to be extremely susceptible of Contagion, the Small Pox may prove of the Confluent Kind, and be attended with the worst Symptoms ;
but

but if there is little or no such Disposition in that Fluid, the Disease may be next to nothing, or of the distinct sort, mild and easy, carried off with a slight Regimen, and perhaps without Medicine.

There is scarcely, I believe, so great a difference between any two Distempers in the World, as between the best and worst sort of Small Pox, in respect to the Danger which attends them ; nor perhaps is there any thing that has been more prejudicial and unfortunate to many Families, than the Mistakes which have arisen from their want of knowing this *difference*: So true is that common Observation, that there is one sort in which a Nurse cannot *Kill*, and another

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which

which even a Physician can never
Cure.

But of what Nature soever these Principles of Contagion are, or whatsoever may be the real Causes of the Small Pox, 'tis plain that by this method Infection is convey'd and propagated; and if we cou'd be assur'd that the Distemper would not be equally uncertain by Inoculation, according to the Nature of the injected Matter, or the Disposition of the Fluids, in the Person who receives it, so that it wou'd constantly prove of the mildest kind, it wou'd no doubt be a very *rational and useful Practice.*

If we consult our Reason and Experience as to the Manner of the Operation, I am afraid, we shall
scarcely

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scarcely find it sufficient to answer this purpose ; or rather we may find it a more unlikely, as well as a more uncertain Method to give the same sort of Contagion, than that which *Nature* has pursued.

The very choice that is made of a thick *purulent Matter* to intermix immediately with the Blood, seems a little repugnant to our Reason, since we know that the Particles have such a different Contexture, and such different Powers to *attract*. The famous Experiment of *transfusing the Blood* of one Animal into the Vessels of another, which is now almost forgot among us, was once as much in *Vogue*, and stood methinks upon a more probable Foundation, than the inoculation of Matter ; for the blended

B 2 Particles

Particles of Blood with Blood, may, in all reason, be thought more likely to unite, and less liable to raise Commotions. Nor will the *Precedents* we have of infusing other Liquors into the Blood from * *Fabritius*, Dr. *Lower*, Sir *E. King*, and others, at all encourage this method of Inoculating. On the contrary, their Experiments inform us, that *Oil of Vitriol* or *Mercury* thus injected, will cause immediate Death ; that *purging Medicines* so injected will *Purge* ; and that Mr. *Smith* in the Hospital at *Dantzick*, infus'd a Preparation of his own, in the flux'd sort of the Small Pox, into two Persons, one of whom recovered, and the other died.

The

* Lowthorp's *Abridgment* of the *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. 3. from pag. 228, to pag. 235.

The only Instance we have of Injecting a Distemper, is, * *transfusing the Blood* of a *Mangy Dog* into a *sound* one, by Mr. Cox, which instead of communicating the Distemper to the *well* Dog, never hurt him; and the *Mangy Dog* that had the Blood of the *sound* one transfus'd into him, was cur'd; which he himself attributes, and not without Reason, to bleeding. But these curious Gentlemen contented themselves with trying Experiments upon *Brutes*; it never came into their Heads to take the Work out of *Nature's* Hands, and raise Distempers by *Art* in a Human Body. They thought Physicians had enough to do

* Lowthorp's *Abridgment*, Vol. 3. pag. 229.

do in curing Diseases, which are naturally incident to Mankind.

We need not, Sir, look out for any Instances of the ill Effects, which such a Way of conveying infectious Particles into the circulating Fluids will produce. Those of our *Profession*, must be by their own Experience convinc'd, of the fatal Consequences of this very *Matter* it self returning into the Blood, in the very height of the flux Small Pox, where there seldom is a full and sufficient discharge by the Skin ; and see every Day what terrible Symptoms such a Mixture of *purulent Matter* raises. In this Case, the Condition of the Patient, tho' he escapes with his Life, is very miserable ; who after passing thro' the Danger of a violent

violent Fever, Convulsions, Delirium, &c. very often, even when he is recover'd of the Distemper it self, feels the Consequences of it, in Tumours, Ulcers, and Imposthumes. So prejudicial is the want of a full Discharge by the Skin: And one may always observe in this artificial Method (even where the Distemper is the fairest and most kindly) that the Pustules scarce ever plump up to that degree, or contain so *laudable a Matter*, as they do in the natural sort.

One would think whoever was Master of this Experience, or of any Knowledge in the *Animal Oeconomy*, would be little forward in intermeddling in this Practice. For as these Viscid Particles,

ticles have never undergone any alteration in the Stomach, the Intestines, the Lacteals, or the Blood of the Person they are convey'd into, so they occasion, we see, great Disorders, till they are expel'd by some *natural* Secretion, or some *præternatural* Discharge. If they are not discharged by Stool, Urine, insensible Perspiration, the Salivary Glands, or some other Strainers, they will break thro' the *Glands of the Skin* in little Eruptions like the Small Pox. Nor am I of Opinion that the Matter taken from these Pustules, is the only Matter that will have this Effect; but that which is inoculated from a *Boil*, or any other *Imposthume*, will produce Eruptions in the Skin.

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By the Account Dr. *Nettleton* gives, as also by the best Observation upon those who have been inoculated in this City, scarcely a *fourth Part* of them have had a *true* and *Genuine* Small Pox. And 'tis so far from certain, that the Seeds of this Distemper, thus transplanted from one Person to another, will always produce the same Disease, that our Experience here convinces us to the contrary; And this is agreeable to what happens frequently in other Cases.

We often see, if we consult Nature, that a Distemper may communicate some Infection, and yet the Distemper so communicated, may have a quite different Appearance. There are Examples for Instance, where a *Gonorrhæa* has given

a true *Pox*, and where a *Pox* on the other hand has given a meer *Gonorrhæa* ; and tho' both have a Power of Infection, yet neither by *Univocal Generation*, so as to be sure of conveying one of its own *Species*. Thus also 'tis common for a Fever of another Nature, at first, to run into the Fever of the Season, which is then *Epidemical* ; and even the *Plague* it self sometimes, especially at the latter End, Contagious as it is, communicates only a Malignant Fever in a much less degree, and with different Symptoms. So Authors have observ'd, that an *Elephantiasis* has by Infection convey'd a *Leprosy* only, and a *Leprosy* only an *Itch* : Distempers very distinct from one another, tho' in some general Circumstances

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ces alike. And accordingly, though the real Small Pox be ingrafted by Incision, yet there is no Reason in Nature, and we see Experience confirms it, but that it may produce an Eruption of quite another sort, as perhaps a *Chicken Pox*, or, as frequently is observ'd, some kind of Pimples that never advance to any *Maturation* at all.

But if this *purulent Matter* has a Power to infect and to give the Small Pox, as sometimes it does, yet we know not the proper *Dose* that is requisite to do the Business. We ought unquestionably to have some certainty of the Efficacy and Activity of the Poyson we infuse; otherwise we, who are the Guardians of Life and Health, may,
not

not unjustly, be charg'd with acting like *Empirics*, and with throwing away the Lives of Mankind at all Adventures. He would be accounted rather a common Murderer than a Physician, who is ignorant of the *Dose* of a violent Purge, or the proper Quantity of Blood to take away upon any occasion. But in this Case, where *half a Grain* is sometimes sufficient to destroy us, certainly it would be very irrational to proceed without adjusting the *Proportion*, and being sure of the Quantity we inject. As this Affair is manag'd at present, the *Inoculators* go on without knowing the *Doses* for Adults, or Children; and a Child of *Three Years* old is inoculated with the same Quantity, as a Man of *Thirty*, without
any

any manner of Regard to these Distinctions.

But if the most *subtle* and most *active* Particles are fittest for the Conveyance of the Contagion, our Inoculators, by injecting the more viscid *Pus*, have rather spoil'd than amended the Experiment. Had they perform'd it, as *Pylarini* acquaints us, by dipping *Needles* into the Matter, and running them thro' the Skin, they might have been surer of Infecting, tho' not surer of the Consequence. Nor can I agree, from what we have already observed of the Nature of this Matter, and the Commotions it raises in the Blood, with what Dr. *Timoni* has asserted, that, as these viscid Particles are blunted and rendred obtuse and less active

active, the Experiment may be practised with the more safety; unless we are to understand by it, that as sometimes they carry no Contagion in them, they frequently have no Effect at all. For the nearer they approach the natural Method of propagating the Infection, by the finer and more Minute Particles, the more likely they are to give it. Hence in the *Bite* of a *Viper*, the sharp and pointed *Salts* in the emitted Juice, convey the Poison effectually; And as this is an Experiment of the like Conveyance, tho' of a less degree of Poison into the Blood, the most refin'd and penetrating Particles will sooner do it, than a load of gross and heavy *Pus*. What Dr. *Nettleton* informs us of, is a farther Confirmation of this

Argu-

ment, that by only rubbing a Pledget with a little Matter on it, over the Incision, he was surpris'd to see the Eruption of the Small Pox, *when the Quantity of the imbibed Matter could not be above the hundredth part of a Grain.* And if the hundredth part of a Grain of such active Particles, is sufficient to give a distinct Small Pox, and often to a great degree; is it not reasonable to believe, that the Quantity of a Grain may be sometimes enough to destroy the strongest Constitution?

But, supposing we were sure of the Proportion of the Infected Matter, 'tis next to impossible to know the Disposition and Aptitude of the Blood, to receive the Infection

Infection at the time of the Incision.

For my part, Sir, I cannot comprehend, I confess, in what manner we shall arrive at any certainty in this Point ; and how, when we have inoculated a putrid Fever, we can be assured to what height it shall rise, or what number of Pustules it shall throw out ; Whether it shall terminate in a Distemper that is next to none, or in Death it self, when we neither know the Activity of the *Venom* we throw in, or the *State* of the *Humours* in the Person who receives it. And certain I am, that the most zealous Favourers of this Experiment can never inform us, which of their Patients shall

shall have it in a kindly manner, and which not.

For as to the Distemper which has been here inoculated, it has been various and irregular, both in its Symptoms and Appearances, generally disagreeing from the *natural sort* of Small Pox, and often from the Description the Inoculators first gave us of the *Artificial One*.

Those in *Newgate* you remember, Sir, were inoculated the *Ninth* of *August*, by an Incision in each Arm, and one in the Leg. The Incisions were long and large, except in the Man, who was supposed to have had the Small Pox before; tho' I don't understand, why, when a *fair Experiment* was to have
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been try'd before us, the Incisions were not made alike in all. I visited them every other Day from the Tenth, on which Day and the Twelfth, I found them very well. On the Fourteenth, they had some Eruptions, bearing no resemblance to the Small Pox, and their Incisions were inflam'd. One of them complained she had been a little Sick ; the rest said, they were very well, and all had a regular Pulse and no Fever. The Sixteenth, the Appearances were the same ; and they all agreed in the same Story, that they had been out of Order, except one of the Women, who had forgot it, till she was put in mind by Mrs. North, the eldest and most Matronly of the Three, upon which she recollected, she had been Sick and in Pain the Day before

fore. However they were all well now : Mrs. *North's* Pulse I thought a little quicker than usual ; and Mrs. *Tompion* had a perfect little Boil, with Matter in it, on her Arm ; which had been *the same* from the first Day of Eruption, contrary to what happens in a true Small Pox ; this was the only Pimple she had, which had *Matter* in it. The Nineteenth, one of the Men ; who had the *Goal Distemper* and an Itch, had some Pustules with Matter in them, tho' without any Fever, or quickness of Pulse. On the 20th, they vanished in a manner ; some of the Incisions were Fester'd, and had some digested Matter.

What I have here related, Sir, you was an Eye witness of, as well

as my self ; Besides, you may remember that the Girl in *Newgate*, who had *Cotton* dip'd in Matter thrust up her Nostrils, had as *fair* a Small Pox as any in this Place, except the Man I mentioned. All these had but few Eruptions ; and there are Instances of Inoculation, where it has produc'd none. In Mr. *H-----n's* Case, I told you of, whom I attended from the Beginning to the End, he never had the least appearance in his Skin, from the Day he was Inoculated, which is now near Three Months ; and, I am inform'd, the same *disappointment* happen'd in the Son of a certain Nobleman.

Upon the whole, Sir, in the Cases mentioned, there was nothing like the Small Pox, either in
Symptoms,

Symptoms, Appearances, advancing the Pustules, or Course of the Distemper. And it would puzzle any one to conceive how 'tis possible the Small Pox can ever be prevented by it.

The *Chicken Pox* has a much nearer Affinity to the Small Pox than this, in any of the Instances we just now mention'd, and bids a great deal fairer for preventing the Distemper, yet we know by Experience, 'tis no *preventive* at all. It is a rash, methinks, and over hasty Assertion in our Inoculators, to affirm, that they can throw out such a kind of Small Pox by this Experiment, as shall certainly *prevent* it for the future; when we know no Reason, nor can they give us any, why when we have once had this Distemper

stemper in the most regular manner, we should not be liable to catch it a *second* time. Nor indeed let Inoculation go on as well as we could wish, can we be ever satisfied of this Truth, that it will *prevent*, without the Experience of many Years.

If the Maxims laid down by the Patrons of Inoculation, as certain and undoubted *Truths*, are a little weigh'd and consider'd, we shall find them either contradictory, or false in Fact, or like what we have observ'd already, without any Proof that really comes up to the Point. Their first Rule, that *the inoculated Matter ought to be taken from a good sort only*, is so far from being true, that the Children of a *certain Noble Lord*, were lately ingrafted from
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the confluent kind ; and those in *Newgate* from a Servant who had a violent Flux sort, as you very well know, and who was *dead* before the Inoculation was perform'd.

The next Rule, that *none who have had the natural sort, can ever catch them by Inoculation*, has been likewise contradicted by one in *St. Thomas's Hospital* ; on whom the *Pimples* appear'd rather more fairly, than in those of *Newgate*, tho' the Pits in his Face to a great degree, were a sufficient Testimony, that he had suffer'd before from this Distemper.

Another of their Maxims, that *they are always favourable*, has been so often confuted by a variety of
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of different sorts, and by the flux kind, so frequently appearing in those who have escap'd, as well as in some who have *unfortunately died of this Disease*, that no understanding and impartial Person can think it a *secure Practice*. Both Mr. Sp---r, and the Lord B----st's Servant, who have seal-ed, if I may say so, the falsity of this *Aphorism* with their Blood, are woful Instances of the *fatal Effects* of this Experiment. If Mr. Sp---r died of any thing, he died certainly of the Small Pox ; nor do I hear of any Physician that has yet been prevail'd upon to give his Opinion to the contrary. He had the flux'd kind not only in his Face, but in some parts of his Body. On the Seventh Day he had a violent second Fever, and soon
after

after strong Convulsions, was sometimes Delirious, and continued in this manner till he *died*. Upon Dissection there was found a *Polypus*, *viz.* some coagulated Blood in the Vessels of the Heart, and some Water in the *Ventricles* of his Brain. Both which you know, Sir, are frequently *instantaneous* appearances in the very Article of Death.

But supposing it should be granted, that this young Gentleman was of a weakly Constitution, and therefore unable to support the load of such a Distemper; If so, why was the Experiment try'd upon him? However, I hope the same will not be said of the second instance I mention'd; he was young, strong, and healthful, had

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no

no Disease but what they *gave* him ; the Small Pox came out on the Ninth Day after Inoculation, were of the flux'd kind to an extreme Degree, not only in his Face, but on his Legs, Arms, and Thighs, and all over his Body : But few of them rose at all ; they were of the scurfy kind, and most of them were dryed white Skins, with little or no Matter in them. He died on the Eleventh Day, having sunk some time before into a great difficulty of Breathing ; his Blood was very *Sizy*, and the *Lungs*, upon Dissection, were much inflamed. A sad Example of the Presumption, as well as Danger of this *Novel Practice*, and of the great good luck, for sure merely it was so, that none of the Branches of that Noble Family were lost by it.

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But tho' these, as far as we with any certainty know, may be the only Examples of the Misfortune of this Practice among *us*, yet by Dr. *Dolbonde's* Account before the *select Men* of the Town of *Boston* in *New England*, we find this Experiment has always been attended with the same uncertainty. He there acquainted them, that about Twenty Five Years before he saw Thirteen Soldiers inoculated in the *French Army* at *Cremona*, of which Operation he declared, that Four *died*, Six recovered with abundance of difficulty and trouble, and that on the other three it had *no effect*. The first who were, tho' in great danger of their Lives, recover'd, he Remarks, were seized afterwards with Tumours and Inflammations in the

Throat ; and that in one of the first who was opened, the *Diaphragm* was found *Livid*, the *Pancreas* swell'd, and the *Caul* *Gangreen'd*.

You may observe, Sir, in this short Relation here before us, we have all manner of uncertainty in an Experiment which ought always to be nearly *Uniform* to make it *Useful*. Here the same Operation, perform'd in the same manner, carries with it no Infection, or Death, or a tedious Distemper next to Death : And no doubt, Sir, but these poor *unhappy brave Fellows*, were perswaded to have this Practice try'd upon them, by some *sanguine Traveller* from *Turkey*, who, from Hearsay and Report, was fond of broaching it ; or for some other
other.

other *Reasons*, was ready to pawn his Reputation on the Safety and the Success of it ; And probably had his first Attempts been Successful, he would soon have had *Vouchers* and *Abettors* ready to averr his Practice ; and if any one had *miscarried* afterwards, to give out, that they had caught the *Natural* sort before they were inoculated. And 'tis somewhat observable, that they should usually attribute the Infection to the common way of catching it, and have recourse to hidden and precarious *Reasons*, without Proof ; in such a Case, when the Experiment has been openly tryed, and is indisputably a *plain and an Apparent Cause*.

However, the *Italians* and *French*, we find, never swallowed the *Bait*,
and

and I have often wondred, as they were nearer Neighbours to this Practice, and as fond of *Novelty* as our selves, that they should never enter into these preventing Measures ; since it would have been happy for the *last*, and for the *House of Bourbon* in particular, had the *Issue of this Experiment* been always, as has been confidently asserted, *Salutary*.

It was, Sir, another of their *Aphorisms*, that *there was no Contagion from the inoculated sort* ; and an Inoculator confesses, he was surprized in the Family of Mr. *Batt* near *Hertford*, to see *six Persons*, of *whom one died*, catch the Infection in this manner. And I am well informed by Persons of unquestionable Reputation, that the Town of *Hertford* is a lamentable Evidence

dence of the Danger of this Practice, where the Distemper was spread by it to that degree, as not only to make an havock of the Inhabitants, but to hinder the Commerce of the place. Thus the Operator has it in his Power to convey the Small Pox to distant Places and Persons, who neither avow his Practice, or desire his Experiment : And if 'tis possible that the *ingrafted Pox* can be so *poysonous* as to communicate *certain Death* to all around, by this method, they may Ingraft as *violent a Plague*, as has been known among us.

How far the *Legislature* may think fit to interpose, in order to prevent such an *artificial way of depopulating a Country*, is not my Province to determine ; but if any
one

one should wilfully set an House on Fire, and from thence lay the Neighbourhood in Ashes ; tho' in the first House it should be happily extinguished, he would unquestionably be accounted guilty of *burning down the whole*, and receive Punishment suitable to so general a *Destruction*.

But after all, Sir, if this Experiment at last should not prevent the Small Pox for the future, we are worse than when we first set out, and have run the risque of our Childrens Lives, and our own, to no purpose.

This was their *chief and main Axiom*, the *Foundation of the rest*, that none, who have been inoculated, can ever catch the natural sort after ;
which

which seems to be directly contradicted in the Cases of the Daughter of Mr. *Degrave*, a Surgeon, and Captain *Hussart*. The first you know, Sir, is a Girl of Twelve Years old, inoculated with some others, above Three Months since: She had several Eruptions, as her Parents affirm'd, somewhat like a *Rash*, attended with frequent *flushings*, which the Inoculator call'd the Small Pox, and assur'd them she was secur'd from ever having it again; and according to the *prevailing Doctrine*, she was return'd Home, as one *great Instance* of this successful Method. However, she lingered on for the space of Three Months in an ill State of Health; sometimes breaking out into Boils and Pimples; and about the *Tenth of May* last

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catching Cold, she was seized with a Pain in her *Head* and *Back*, and fell into the Symptoms preceding the *natural* Small Pox. On the *Third* Day they appear'd, and her Symptoms vanishing, and the Pustules being kindly and distinct, according to the *regular advances* of this Disease, they came to a full Maturation the Seventh Day after the Eruption. We both saw her on that *very* Day, and were entirely satisfy'd, by the *Nature* and *Course* of the Distemper, and the *appearance of the Pustules*, that it was a *true distinct* Small Pox. And to me, I confess, one Example of this kind destroys the certainty of Inoculation's preventing the Small Pox, as much as a thousand. Nor did I ever see an *Itch* with a *Fever*,
and

and *these Symptoms*, tho' she has *since* that Distemper on her.

What I would infer from this Case is, that if she had the Small Pox, or what they call so, by Inoculation, 'tis plain 'tis no *preventive*, and that 'tis as much catching afterwards, as if she never had it by *Ingrastment*. If 'tis denied she had it by Inoculation, 'tis equally as evident, that the Experiment is good for nothing, of no Effect, and *absolutely useless*. However this is plain, that it ingrafted on her such an *ill Habit* of Body, that had the Morbific Matter, instead of breaking out into *Boils* and *Impostburnes*, and after that perhaps into the *Itch* it *self*, been thrown upon the *Lungs*, or any other *Vital* part, a long and tedious Disease,

or inevitable Death must have been the Consequence.

'Tis indeed from this Consideration chiefly, that we ought to be extremely Cautious of this Experiment. For as there is no Man but has some Imbecility, some little Weakness more in one part than another, so Distempers, Sir, you are sensible, often prove fatal by finding out the *foible* of our Constitution, and attacking us in the most *unguarded* places. Nor is it any excuse in such a Case to pretend, that the Death of the Patient is owing rather to the *Constitution*, than to the *Disease*; since a Surgeon ought no more to Inoculate in an ill Habit of Body, than he ought to raise a *Salivation* when there is an *Ulcer* in the Lungs, and the Per-
son

son is in the last *State* of a *Consump-*
tion.

There is another Circumstance too, which may deserve the Inoculator's *serious* Reflection, that when he injects Matter into the Blood this way, it may be possible, and even probable, to communicate another Distemper, besides the Small Pox. Suppose the Person the Matter is taken from, has the *King's Evil*, the *Pox*, *Madness*, or some other *inveterate* Disease? What wou'd be the Consequence of this Method in such a Case? I am sure the Inoculator can give me no Reason, why it shou'd not convey one Distemper as well as the other; Nay, if a Distemper, as is *the reasoning of the Inoculators*, always generates one of the *same kind*, the
Patient

Patient must unquestionably receive whatever is thus *ingrafted*.

But besides the six Soldiers we have mentioned, there is nothing adds more to the confirmation of the ill Effects proceeding from such Ingraftments, than the Case Dr. *Dolbond* relates, of a *Muscovite* Soldier at the Battel of *Almanza*. He found, it seems, *no immediate Impression* from Inoculation, but six Weeks after he was seized with a *Frenzy*, and his *Body swell'd*, as if he had been *poysoned*, of which he died *suddenly*. Upon opening him, his *Lungs were ulcerated*; and it was the concurrent Opinion of Dr. *Helvetius*, now Physician to the King of *France*, and two of the King of *Spain's* Physicians, that the infused Matter had thrown it self
upon

upon that *Vital Part*, and occasioned his *Death* in this manner.

As to the remarkable Case of Captain *Huffart*, we will take it from Dr. *Dolbonde's* own words, In the Year 1701, being in *Flanders*, there was committed to my Care, says he, by *Monsieur le Duc de Guiche*, Colonel of *Dragoons*, one Captain *Huffart*, taken ill of the *Small Pox*, who express'd himself in these very words; Ten Years ago I was inoculated five or six times, without that cursed *Invention's* taking Effect upon me; must I then Perish? He was so violently seized, that he had several *Ulcers* on his Body, especially one on his Arm, which occasioned a *Lameness* thereof, which was incurable.

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For my part, Sir, I confess, I am neither acquainted with this Physician, nor his Character, but we can have no Reason to question his Veracity, when the *Magistracy of Boston* took his *Affidavit* of these *Facts*, and the Physicians and Surgeons there, upon his *Representation solely*, came to several Resolutions, in order to stop the Progress of this Experiment; and, we hear since, a *Bill* is pass'd to hinder the *spreading of Infection by inoculation*.

I hope these *Facts* will have the same weight here, since the Experiment is as *Hazardous*, as 'tis *Useless*; and every Day, I am afraid, will produce *more Examples* of the Rashness of the Project, as well as the Infatuation of the People. And
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whenever the Season appears less favourable than the present, which indeed, for this last Year has been so in an extreme degree, and more so than for Twenty Years last past, I am confident we shall find the Distemper equally as dangerous, as when 'tis taken in the common Way. Neither is it sufficient to suggest, that then they will not attempt the Operation, since, from what has been observed from the Family of Mr. Batt, and the Town of *Hertford*, the Consequences will at all Times and Seasons be pernicious to private Families, and destructive of the publick Welfare.

When not only those who are inoculated, but those infected from them, shall *die* of the Distem-

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per,

per, 'tis time for every *Parent* to examine what he is doing, and for the *Inoculator* to consider that he is answerable for all the *Consequences*. This is such a way of venturing upon *present Death*, for fear of *dying* Thirty, perhaps, or Forty Years afterwards by this Distemper, that no People who have common *Resolution* to support themselves under Afflictions, or who have common *Sense* to guide them in their Enquiries, can ever be delighted with the Thoughts of it. When 'twas first broach'd among us, 'twas affirm'd to be so *Safe* and *Useful*, that there was no *occasion* for Physicians ; and yet, 'tis *notorious*, that they have call'd out for their *Assistance*, when it has been too late to extinguish, or allay the *Flame*.

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But the Inoculators have not only laid down Positions which are *wrong*, but have *contradicted* one another so, and themselves too in their several Accounts, that 'tis a difficulty to know which of them, or which *part* of their Works, may be best credited. One of them sets out with acquainting us, what kind of Small Pox is given by this Experiment, and assures us, that the *Disorder before the Eruption* is so very slight and gentle, that in strictness of Speech it cannot be call'd a *Disease*, and is so far from a Fever, that it scarce deserves the Name of a *Febricula*. It has, continues he, none of the usual Complaints of Pain in the Back, Vomitings, Head-achs, Thirst, Inquietude, or the like. The Pustules never *Pit*, and are seldom from above Ten to an Hundred.

Had all his Cases exactly agreed in all, or most Points, with this Relation, it wou'd have been undoubtedly an Encouragement that would have invited the most Timorous, as well as the most Beautiful of the fair Sex, to be *fond* of this Practice; but the Misfortune is, that the *Ambassador's Son*, he informs us, was *Hot and Thirsty*, Mr. *Colt's* Child very *Ill* and *Feverish*, from the 20th to the 22d, as was one of Mr. *Heath's* Sons before the Eruption, whom he allows to have had a *great Load* of the *continued small kind*. He attributes this to his *wetting his Feet* in Water; and concludes, that *the World* could not have saved his Life, had he taken this *Distemper* by *Infection*.

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How far, Sir, this may be an Argument with others, I cannot say, yet it certainly ought to be none with this Inoculator, unless he has forgot how the poorer People in his own Countrey, often run about with the Small Pox upon them, without either *Shoes* or *Stockings* ; or, what Dr. *Sydenham* has advised on such Occasions ; who would have told him, perhaps, that the Boy, had it not been for this *fortunate Accident*, must infallibly have died. If the *Miscarriage* he saw at *Constantinople*, which I suppose was some Body who, in plain *English*, died of the *Inoculated* Sort, is grounded on no better a Reason than this, 'tis an *Exception* to every thing else he has laid down, and a full *Confutation* of his whole *Treatise*. I could Name the Lord
F---'s

F---'s Son, and many others here, besides those who have *dy'd*, who have been upon the very Brink of this *Miscarriage* he has spoken of; and they tell us from *New England*, of some *breeding Women* who, in the true Sense of the Word, have actually *Miscarried* under this Experiment.

As to *Dr. Nettleton's* Description of this Distemper, it seems a fair and open Declaration of what, he tells us, he saw himself. About the *Seventh Day*, he says, the Symptoms of the Fever begin to shew themselves, which are the same we observe in the *Small Pox* of the distinct kind, a quick Pulse, great Heat, and Thirst; and sometimes they run so high, that he has been obliged to repeat a gentle
Opiate,

Opiate, and once or twice to have recourse to Blisters.

This, Sir, however it may be true, is very different from the other, we have mentioned, and as they vary from one another in their Accounts, as much as the Distemper *differs from it self*, in various Subjects, they can never have any Weight with any reasonable and thinking Man, or be able to perswade the World of the Usefulness and Safety of this Method.

If the Experiment be *regular* and *certain* in *Turkey*, as *Timoni* averrs, 'tis surprizing it should appear in such a *diversity* of Shapes among us. 'Tis enough, methinks, to make one believe, that as he had
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seen but little of the Practice himself, he was *imposed* on, and took it upon Trust from those who, thro' Ignorance or Design, deceived him. Yet there are some Expressions drop'd by him, which are an Exception to his whole Doctrine: Sometimes, he says, the *Eruption* is too sudden, and of the flux'd kind; and if the Patient dies, as he gives us one *Example* or two, he makes use of the same *Subterfuge* which serves the turn at present with us, that he had taken them by the common Method.

But if this sort was always so mild in *Turkey*, and the common Small Pox generally *Mortal*, I cannot imagine but the *Native Turks*, stupid as they are, notwithstanding their favourite Doctrine of *Fatality*,

ty, by seeing the *Success* of this Experiment every Day with their own Eyes, for *many Years together*, would have been *convinc'd* long before this, and have practis'd it among themselves: Yet neither this Author, nor any one besides, pretends to give us an Instance of an *Inoculated Turk*. *Pylarini* allows this, and as he was less acquainted with this Practice than the other, his whole Relation, which is in many things *contradictory* to *Timoni*, was taken, as he confesses, from an *old Greek Woman*, who had been a *Transplanter* of it many Years. In the very first Instance he gives, of his own Knowledge, of the Four Sons of a Person of Condition, who underwent the *Operation*, one of them had the *Confluent Kind*. He seems

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indeed to give *entire Credit* to what the *Woman* told him of the *Success* in general ; yet does not say, that the *Inoculated Pox* is always *Regular*, but acknowledges a *Variety* of *Sorts*, and that *Abscesses* often proceed from *ill Management*. And altho' his Method of doing it with *Needles*, as we observed before, is different from the present *Fashion* ; However, he lays it down as certain, that * performing it any other way, will be *absurd*, *not customary*, *without success*, and of the most fatal *Consequence*.

Thus, if we compare these *very Authors* with our own *Inoculators*, we shall find that, like them, they
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* Præter hanc operandi formam, cæteri omnes rejiciuntur Modi, utpote absoni, inusitati, male succedentes, Infelicisque exitus.

jar and disagree with one another, and with themselves, in such a manner, that one would believe they were giving a Relation of a thing they had never seen, but had only had it by Report.

As to *Incisions*, they *All* in general give a *confused and contradictory Account* of them; sometimes they are sufficient of themselves to carry off the *Morbific Matter* thro' the *Orifice*, without *Pimples*; at other times some *Pimples* are requisite, but at all times the *more is discharged by these Sores, the less is the Eruption*; which may be proved to be *false in Fact*, in almost every *Tryal* that has been made. Nor is it any *Mystery*, that *Matter* should be thus discharged from an

Incision. Every Surgeon knows, that when a *Wound* is made in any part, it will *inflame*, *suppurate*, and often, in an ill habit, *mortifie*. We meet frequently with these Cases from *Blood-letting*; and I have heard of very *unfortunate Accidents*, which have happened to some of the *first Rank* from this *ingrafting Method*; and, in some others, I am informed, from Persons of Integrity and *Skill*, that this very Matter has been translated on the *Bones*, and made them *foul* and *carious*, and in others again, occasioned an *Hectic Fever*, which may probably end in a *Consumption*.

And now, Sir, I have recounted, I believe, most of the Inconveniences arising from this Experiment;

ment ; I have observed that it may differ from *it self*, as practised in another *Climate* ; that 'tis not agreeable to *Reason*, that the Positions of the favourers of Inoculation are *false*, and their Practice as *precarious* ; that some have had *the Distemper* not at all, others to a *small degree*, others the *worst sort*, and that some have *died* of it. I have given Instances of those, who *have had it after Inoculation* in the common way ; and consequently, as 'tis hazardous, so 'twill neither answer the main *Design* of *preventing* the Distemper for the future. I have considered what the Effects may be of inoculating on an *ill Habit*, and how destructive it may prove to *spread* a Distemper that is *Contagious* ; and how widely at length the Authors in this Subject *disagree* among

among themselves, and how *little* they have seen of the Practice. All which seem to me to be just and necessary .Consequences of these *Newfangled Notions*, as well as convincing Reasons for the *Disuse* of this Practice. And upon the whole that has been said, it appears to me, as I perswade myself it will to every one, that the Infusing such a *Malignity* into the Blood, is the Foundation of many *terrible Diseases*, as well as this; that 'tis absolutely *useless*, because it will not *certainly prevent* the Small Pox a *second* time; and as it tends to begin, to propagate and to continue an Infection in a Place, which otherwise would be *free* from it; 'tis *repugnant* to common Sense, of the most *pernicious Consequence* to a Populous and *Trading* City,

City, and entirely *destructive* to the Good of the Publick, and the very *Being* and *Intention* of a Community.

Besides, as it has been practised commonly upon *Children*, it scarce amounts to a *fair Tryal*; since hardly *One* in an *Hundred* have *died of the natural sort* in this *Season*. Nor is it necessary on the other hand to ingraft every one who has not had it, because we have many *Instances* of such, who, all their *Lifetimes*, have *escaped*, and who will not, and in all probability *cannot catch* this *Disease*. Among many whom I could mention for being *Conversant* with this *Distemper*, *Mr. Nicholson*, the present *Master of the Apothecary's Company*, is an unquestionable *Instance*; who from
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the Extensiveness of his Business, for near *Fifty Years* together, has attended as many perhaps in this Distemper, as any Man now living, and as he never lay under the least Apprehension, so he had never the least Disorder on that Account.

For my part, Sir, as it had my *Wishes*, so none should more readily have countenanc'd this Method than my self, would it have answer'd the Character the Inoculators first gave it. Had it been always *slight, gentle, safe and useful*, with all those *alluring Epithets* they bestow'd on it; had none had above an *Hundred, or Two Hundred Pustules*, and no one died of it in the space of *several Years*; and had there been no Instance of any one's being ever
again

again infected, who had had any Pustules at all, how few soever, raised by Inoculation, no Body would have sooner subscribed to it than my self. I should always have look'd upon it as the greatest blessing to our Country, and have thought the Person who transplanted it among us, could never have been too well Rewarded, or have had too great Honours conferr'd on him, for so *beneficial* and so *important* a Service. I know no Physician, was it not the *Duty* of his Calling, who would desire to have any thing to do with the worst kind of the *confluent* Small Pox; for although the Disease it self is generally as *Mortal* as the *Plague*, and he does every thing that becomes him as a Man of Integrity

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and Knowledge in his Profession, yet frequently, thro' the Humour and Caprice of those about the Patient, it shall be attributed to him as a *Crime*, because he cannot perform a *thing* which is *miraculous*, and *put a stop* to the hand of Providence.

Pardon me, Sir, for giving you the Trouble of this tedious Letter, on a Subject, which no one better understands, than your self: I have given my Sentiments freely, and, I confess, in an unaccurate Dress; however, I have this Pleasure, that, in relation to this Practice, they concur with *your Opinion*, which is always grounded on the best Reasons, flowing from repeated Observations,

servations, and the most distinguish'd Judgment.

I cannot but think with you, I own, that 'tis unbecoming Men of *Skill*, to take up Notions in a case of this Consequence, meerly upon the *Tradition* of others, and those perhaps not the best Judges, for the sake of complying with the *common Vogue*, which a thing so *New* may easily obtain. I dare say, you wou'd be glad to find your self deceiv'd in your Thoughts of this Method; and, as an instance, you can renounce any Error when once discover'd, tho' you believ'd 'twas improbable a *true regular Small Pox* cou'd be convey'd by *Inoculation*, I have heard you often say, you was ready to

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own your self mistaken in that Point.

This indeed, upon the whole, is the *only Conviction* which we have hitherto had, in regard to this Operation, that sometimes at least it may *give the genuine* fort. I have already mention'd the ill Effects, which too often naturally attend it; And as the Experiment stands at present, in relation to private People, attempting it at a *venture*, among themselves, 'tis difficult to say what *worse* use may be made of it. Certain it is, that if some future Inoculator can be drawn into any ill Design, he might be as sure of a Method of *silently* communicating any *Poyson*, as they are in those

those Nations, the most famous for this *artful* Practice.

As to what concerns this little Treatise, I am not much in pain about it ; I have laid the Facts before you, some of which I was an Eye-witness of, and you of others ; They carry their *own Weight* with them, and speak for themselves ; and whenever the contrary can by Experience be *demonstrated*, as none will be better pleas'd, I know, than your self, notwithstanding your present reasonable Doubts, so none shall more willingly *acquiesce* in this *Method*, than,

S I R,

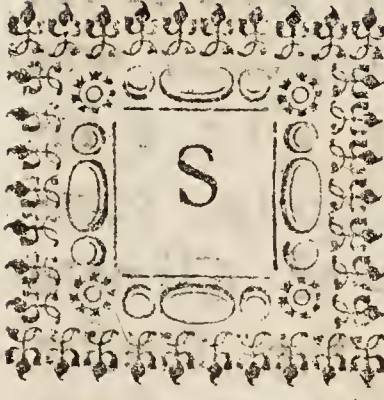
Your Humble Servant,

Warwick-Court,
June 12. 1722.

W. Wagstaffe.



S I R,


 SINCE I finish'd this, I have had the perusal of some Letters, which Dr. *Alexander Stuart* has receiv'd from Dr. *William Douglass*, a Physician of the best Credit and Practice at *Boston* in *New England*. It seems some of the *Reverend Divines* there, upon reading the Account of *Inoculation* in the *Philosophical Transactions*, took it into their Heads to put it in Practice; and did so, not only against the Opinion of the *Practising Physicians* of the Place, but directly against the Consent of the Magistracy: With what Success, the following *Extracts* will best shew.

Extract of the first LETTER:

Boston, Dec. 20, 1721.

IN the first Tryals, the *Eruption Fever* of *B—n's* Son and old Mr. *M—b*, startled the *Inoculators*; but, as Persons scorning to
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give out, and in Contempt of the *Guardians*, or Select Men of the Town, who forbid the Practice, as also contrary to the declared Opinion of the *Practitioners in Physick*, they make a second Attempt on a few, with indifferent good Success. At length many inoculated *Suffer much*; Mrs. D——l (and others whom Time may bring to Light) *Dies* of it: Then they gave out, that the Infection was so universal, that it was likely all the inoculated had received the Infection the common Way, and the Difference of Climate from that in the *Levant*, was the Reason of the Eruptions being more. They seem to intermit the Practice for some time; but lest it should be taken for *Rescanti*ng, they *Rally* once more, and with Precaution inoculate those who could not be suspected of having received the Infection in the natural Way, for some Days pretty lucky; but soon after, several of the inoculated *Die*, and many *Suffer much*. Now they say the Winter Season will not do, tho' this is the only Season recommended by their *Authors*: So that, with various Success, it has been practised since the middle of *June* to this time, on about two Hundred Subjects.

Timonius and *Pylarinus* in some things *Clash*; the first says it came from *Asia* the other from *Greece*. *Timonius* says it has been practised for about the Space of Forty Years among

among the *Turks*, and others at *Constantinople*. *Pylarinus* (the latest Author) says, that the *Turks* only would not come into it, because Repugnant to their Doctrine of *Predestination*. Thus one would think, they were writing concerning a thing they had rather heard, than seen much of, especially if we take *Pylarinus's* own Words, *Quamvis de omnibus, ut ingenue fatear, oculatus testis esse non possum*, meaning all the Circumstances of this Operation or Practice: And take their whole Accounts, *Phil. Transact.* No 339, 347, you will find they do not know half so much, as we do at present in our short *Inoculation* Practice; v. 9. the Operatrix says, *the Pus of the artificial Small Pox is ineffectual for further transplantation*; *Pylarinus*, its true conjectures (not having try'd it) that it may be more benign and more effectual; but *We* have put it in practice and suffer'd thereby. *Pylarinus* forbids *Flesh* and *Wine* for *Forty Days*, because some who have erred in that Point have run great Hazards by fresh Eruptions: *Timonius* says, *none that ever us'd it, dyed of the Small Pox*; and in another Place mentions two inoculated Children who dyed, but, says he, it was of a *Cacochymy*; *We* to our sad Experience know, that *several* have dyed; He says without Reserve, they who have this *Inoculation* practis'd upon them, are subject to very slight Symptoms; and in another Place, of Fifty who were *inoculated* about the same time,

Four had the Symptoms worse, and came near the *Confluent Kind*, as we have also learned in our Experience. Several of the *inoculated* at *Boston*, when I insinuated the Danger of having, after some time, the Small Pox in the common way, told me it could not possibly happen, because their *eruption Fever was more violent than generally in the common way*.

There is not a Race of Men on Earth more false Lyars [*viz. Negroe Slaves*] their Accounts of what was done in their Country, was never depended upon till now for Arguments sake. Many *Negroes* to my knowledge, have assur'd their Masters, that they had the Small Pox in their own Countrey, or elsewhere, and have now had it in *Boston*. Some of Dr. M's *inoculated Army* have had the same Fate; which might serve as an Argument, that the *inoculated* may have the Small Pox afterwards in the common way.

Their History of its Success is shortly this: *At first they gave out, that it was a method not Infecting, procuring only a small quantity of Eruptions, but never Death, nor any bad Consequence, and was an infallible Security against ever after having the Small Pox.*

We soon found it *infecting*; many have died of the Infection received from the *Inoculated*, whose *Deaths*, in a great measure, lie at the
Inoculators

Inoculators Doors. Then the *Parsons* gave up this Point, but continued to maintain the rest, till they found some of the Inoculated with *immense Number of Pustules.* This they attribute to the difference of Climate, and being but *Learners*; we hope in a little time to be more expert (says *Dr. M.*) but none ever dy'd of it these *Forty Years*; Then dies the Inoculated *Mrs. D——l*, (besides *several* others who dy'd in the Crowd, when the Distemper was Universal and at the height; for they acknowledge, that many more were Inoculated than they judged proper to mention, because of the Clamours of the People :) Some of the *Inoculators* said, she received the Infection in the common way, tho' the most cautious of *Women*, and every thing wrought as usual in Inoculation: Others of them say she dy'd of *Hysterick Fits*, not considering that *Hysterick Fits* are no mortal Distemper; and it betrays not so much their Ignorance, as their *Wickedness*, thus to impose on the World; for they certainly must know, that most Persons agonizing, have Convulsions and Tremors, call'd the Agonies or *Pangs of Death.* Their daring Practice on Women with Child, who Miscarried while under Inoculation, they do not mention, as if procuring Abortion were a very innocent Practice; I forbear the Names of some who are Instances of this *Wickedness.*

Now at length the Distemper in its natural Course abating, several who die under Inoculation

tion, can no longer be *concealed*; some of them now say the *Winter Season* will not do, tho' it be the only Season prescrib'd by their *Authors*; and in the Name of others, one of the *Inoculators*, a young Conscience keeper, says, *I am not at all shy to say, that some may Miscarry under it, because God keeps us in a dependance on himself in the use of Means; and if a Man dies under Inoculation, he dies in the Use of Means.*

As for the Consequence, Time must clear up; some we know whose *Inoculation Sores* have been for a long time, and still continue *troublesome*.

My humble Opinion of *Inoculation* is, as of all bold Experiments of Consequence in the *Practice of Physick*, that whatever the Success, or Consequences may be (and the more tryals the more light) they may be of a publick Advantage, tho' at the Risque of the first Patients. If it answer, after Generations will reap the Benefit of it; if otherwise, the miserable Sufferers will be recorded as bold, rash, infatuated fools, the Practice for ever after abhor'd, and the Promoters thereof stigmatized as *Murders*. But for the following Reasons I could not at present comply with this Novel, Rash, and Dubious Practice.

I. Poysoning, and Spreading Infection, are by the Penal Laws of England Felony. *Inoculation* falls in with the first without any Contradiction

on; and if a Person of so *weak a Constitution*, that any the least Illness may prove fatal to him, should be Inoculated, and suffer but the tenth part of what several of the *Inoculated* have done, he must unavoidably Perish, and his *Inoculator* deem'd guilty of *wilful poysoning*. This is the Reason, I suppose, why the Practitioners of *Boston* thought themselves not *safe* to venture on a thing of such Consequence. Supposing only one in a Thousand should *die* of this Method, it cannot with Safety to the *Inoculators* be practised without an *Act of Parliament*, exempting *Inoculation* by a sworn Practitioner, from the Penalties of *Poysoning*, and *spreading Infection*. I think *B——n's* Friends should advise him to take his Tryal, while so many Judicious *Magistrates* and *Ministers* are in the Humour of *Inoculation*, lest any time hereafter, during his natural Life, he be brought on his Tryal, either on the *King's Account*, or by the Relations.

2. The Personal Testimonies of several Gentlemen, who have been to the *Levant*, importing, that *some Inoculated have dy'd under it* (as we have lately seen *several* amongst our selves) *others therefore have been miserable by its dismal Effects and Consequences; and some have had the Small Pox in the natural way notwithstanding.* But their Testimonies, says Dr. C. M. are not worth a Straw; tho' in case of any Felonious Action

Action against himself, they would be worth his Neck in any Court of Justice.

3. *The Rash and Mischievous Methods used in propagating this Practice.* Instead of contriving Methods to secure the *Inoculated* from taking the Infection the natural way, and their Neighbours from being infected by them, they Inoculate indifferently in all Corners, and set the Town all in a Flame in one Moment as it were; many Perish, who had the Infection from the *Inoculated*, whose Deaths, perhaps, *in foro divino*, they may be found Guilty of. Their Authors, *Timonius* and *Pylarinus*, tell, that the Person who collects the Matter, ought not to apply it, lest a *double Infection* ensue; and that the Advantage of this Practice is, that a *suitable Season*, and a *well prepared Body*, may be had to rencounter the Infection; but these things as trivial they neglect, and run headlong as if push'd on by some Fury.

They do all they can to perswade the Country Towns to come into it, tho' they generally have escaped in former *Small Pox times*, and the Winter coming on, with the hard continued *Frosts*, may stop its progress.

The Reasons Authority may have to connive at this, I do not pretend to meddle with, but desire to be thankful to God, who in his
wise

wise Providence seems to put a Stop to their Career, by the late Deaths of several *inoculated*. If the *Inoculators* had design'd a Publick Good, why did they run Headlong into it, without observing the *Circumstances* and *Cautions*, which might have made it useful? To begin in the *Heart of the Town*, where was no *Infection*, to *Inoculate* all Ages and Constitutions from the very *Beginning*, without being first assured of its *Success* on the *Young* and *Healthy*: Why did they not *Petition* the *Government*, that none should be *Inoculated* till his Name was *Recorded*, that for the Publick Good in *Times to come* it might be known who *Dy'd*, and what State of Health they afterwards enjoy'd who *Surviv'd*; and also have contriv'd some Method that none might take the *Infection* from the *Inoculated*. This Neglect has occasion'd the *Death* of many.

I am sorry the World cannot reap that Benefit from this *Rash* and *Bold* Experiment, that might have been expected: The chief *Promoter*, who sends *Accounts Home* not always to be depended upon, is *Credulous* and *Whimsical*; the *Operator* is *Rash* and *Unthinking*. Who knows but they who have *Dy'd* or *Suffer'd* much under *Inoculation*, if they had had better Management, might have had better Fate.

We have learnt from our five or six Months Experience of Inoculation,

1. *That the Small Pox may sometimes be communicated by Inoculation.* I cannot say always, because some have been *Inoculated* more than *once* before it wrought; and many have from thence had only a sort of Eruption Fever, but *no genuine Small Pox*, so far as I am able to judge.

2. *That the Small Pox so acquired, is frequently more favourable than in the common way of Infection, and not altogether so mortal:* What the dismal Consequences may be, I shall not pretend to determine; but Reason, and the Testimonies of some Gentlemen from the *Levant*, give us ground to suspect.

3. *That not one of the Inoculated, during the space of five or six Months, has had the Small Pox in the natural way, so far as we know; for the Inoculators, in every thing that makes against them, by Lyes and Equivocations, endeavour to keep us in the Dark.*

Extract

Extract of the Second LETTER.

Boston, Feb. 15. 1722.

UPON the Noise of Inoculation being attempted, the *Justices* and Select Men appointed a meeting of all the *Practitioners*, who unanimously gave their Opinion *against* it, till further Light; which was accordingly published by the Select Men, and the *Practice* is *forbidden*; but by the Instigation of this Man and his Accomplices, they proceed in *Contempt* of the Magistrates, and in Contradiction to the *Practitioners*.

We all know that several have *died* of the Practice, and that many have *suffered* much. How trifling is it for us, who have had the Experience of *Two or Three Hundred Inoculated*, to appeal to a Man, who only *Conjectures* it may be of use, and has not had the opportunity of adducing more than *two* Instances, and these of *Children*, whose Age might contribute to their having them favourable either way: I mean *Dr. Harris's Dissertation on the Small Pox*.

Since my last to you, the Small Pox has made little or no progress in the Countrey. Our News Papers tell us that in some Towns it is entirely ceased, in others much abated. Who then, but

Madmen, would have advised Inoculation in the severest Season to those, who are like for ever to escape the Small Pox? In this Town several *Hundreds* have escaped, and it is probable many more *might have escaped*, (as was the Case *Nineteen Years* ago) if *Inoculation* had not rendered the *Infection* so *universal* and *intense*. Last Small Pox, the Months of the greatest Mortality (*December, a severe Winter Month*) did not exceed *Eighty* Persons; at this time the Month of the greatest Mortality (*October, a favourable Autumn Month*) exceeded *Four Hundred* Burials, which is more than all that dy'd of the Small Pox *Nineteen Years* ago. For the *three* Months of *September, October, and November* last, in which *Inoculation* prevailed, the Town was a meer Hospital, and we bury'd *Seven Hundred and Sixty* Persons. The last Small Pox spread gradually in the extent of *Ten* or a *Dozen* Months, and vast Numbers escaped. *Inoculation* of the Small Pox this time set us all in a Flame; and in *half* the time leaves *few* People exempt from its Rage. With what Face can any Man call our Methods of *Inoculation* a regular Procedure?

I heartily wish Success to this and all other Means designed to alleviate the *Epidemick* Distempers, incident to Mankind; whether casually discovered, or ingeniously contriv'd by the Sons of *Æsculapius*: But Rashness, and
Headstrong

Headstrong irregular procedure, I shall for ever exclaim against, especially that detestable Wick-
edness of *spreading the Infection*.

I appeal to the Town, if some *Negroes*, who in Confidence of having had the *Small Pox* before by *Inoculation*, did attend the Sick, were not taken ill of the *Small Pox*, and dy'd: The last instance, I think, was not long ago at *Marblehead*.

Extract of the Third LETTER.

Boston, April 27, 1722.

I *Noculation* in this Place has much lost its Credit, and does not go forward at present: The *Lower House*, or Representatives in Assembly, passed a Bill *restricting* that Practice under severe Penalties, next to *forbidding* the same; but our Governor, (a Man devoted to Mr. *Mather*, and a great stickler for *Inoculation*) with the Council, would not pass it, until they heard how that Practice was received in *England*.

I design shortly to send you a full Account of the Success of our *Inoculation* of the *Small Pox* in this Place; all I shall say at present is general, *viz.*

It has not been so favourable as our *Levant* Authors have wrote; some have been *Inoculated more than once* before it took effect; others it never wrought with in the least; many from thence had only a few *dry Eruptions*, soon disappearing, and perhaps may not be secure against receiving the Infection in the natural way, sometime hence; some had a good distinct Pock, with a regular Course as the natural, did well, and do now look healthy. *Several* have *dy'd*; some who survived, had the *confluent* sort; many were very full; some Women suffered *Abortion*; one lost her *Sight*; some were in danger of losing their *Limbs*, by an afflux of Humours to the Sores of their *Incisions*; on some the place of Incision continues to have a dry crusty Scab. There are who, after being several *Months* abroad, by the *running* of their *Incisions*, have *infected their Neighbours*.

All of them, while Ill and their Sores running, have a *fætor* peculiar to *Inoculation*; they all, while Ill, complain much of their Head, and dejection of Spirits; and therefore it is that Mr. *Mather*, in his Publications, says, it is not to be practised on *Hysterick* and *Hypochondriacal* People. Some People observe, that it alters their Complexion, and they that have been *Inoculated*, do not appear so healthy, as those who have had the Small
Pox

Pox by the natural Infection. Many who had a favourable Opinion of it, have alter'd their Minds; and the *Inoculated* are pointed at as Persons having something singular.



F I N I S.

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The first of the year 1811
was a very dry one and the
water in the river was very low
and the boats were very dry.

On the 1st of the year 1811

21 M 11

On the 1st of the year 1811





Maggs

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